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ment was affirmative guarantee of civil rights. It was to remove all doubts as to the constitutionality of the Civil Rights bill, to make the first eight amendments binding on the states and incidentally to declare who were citizens of the United States.

In his discussion of the amendment before the people and before the state legislatures Mr. Flack shows that the view Congress held was general. The majority thought Congress was to have power to define what were the rights of citizens which the United States could protect and the opposition decried the change as one which would reduce the states to the position of counties.

The last chapter discusses the Congressional interpretations placed upon the amendment just after its adoption. The evidence given as to their purpose by those who framed the amendment, bears out the conclusion from the sources previously discussed.

Mr. Flack is to be congratulated on the way he has handled his subject. He has confined himself strictly to the subject in hand and has given us the best compilation of the historical evidence as to the purpose of the fourteenth amendment which is now available.

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**Hodgetts, E. A. B.** *The Court of Russia in the Nineteenth Century.* 2 Vols.

Pp. xxiv, 615. Price, \$6.00. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1908.

The majority of books which deal with the court of Russia give us, for the most part, an unpleasant and unreliable account of scandals and petty intrigues. Mr. Hodgetts does not do this. From the best sources both in Russian and in other languages, he has made a careful and detailed study of the education, character and work of those who have played the leading rôles at the court of St. Petersburg during the last century.

The author acknowledges that the game of intrigue is inseparable from the court of an absolute ruler. But it is not the petty and personal intrigues which he recounts. Among the highest counselors of the Emperor, various tendencies were always represented. It was now one, now another that prevailed for the moment. The conflict between the representatives of these contending tendencies must be understood in order to follow the often abrupt changes in the Imperial policy. Mr. Hodgetts explains these conflicts and studies in considerable detail the participants and the issues involved.

The personal element plays a most important part in an autocratic régime; at every turn it enters into the decision of state matters. Alexander the First was distinctly liberal during the first years of his reign, but later he became an active spirit in the Holy Alliance. His private correspondence, the "home" influences that surrounded him—these more intimate questions help us to understand this change of policy. The methods of education of the young Grand Dukes, especially of those who were to succeed to the throne, must be known if one is to examine their subsequent activity as "unlimited

autocrats." The author gives much space to this personal side. For as he says—it was mere human weakness that was responsible for the frequent contradictions. This excuses to a certain extent the subject of the weakness; but it gives us at the same time, one of the strongest arguments against an autocratic form of government.

The last chapter deals with the present Emperor. In the recent political movement in Russia, the personality of the Emperor has been a determining factor. This has not been so clear to the outside observers because, as a matter of expediency, all parties have been most careful to bring him into the conflict as little as possible. Mr. Hodgetts says of the Emperor "however much he may allow himself to be influenced by considerations of expediency and policy which may be advanced by his advisors, he will cause his own will to prevail in the end, . . . his sensitive features bear an expression of sincerity and steadfastness of purpose."

A great many Russians differ with Mr. Hodgetts as to the direction of this steadfastness of purpose. It is only fair to give their opinion which is that this steadfastness of purpose is directed only toward preserving the prerogatives of an autocrat which he is most loath to surrender, in spite of the manifesto of October 30, 1905. Recent events would seem to justify to a certain extent this opinion. The author says: "It is of happy augury for Russia that its present ruler, after a sufficient period of probation, *should appear* to have made up his mind to grant his people this great safeguard (the introduction of elective representative institutions) against corruption."

This study of the court of an absolute monarch comes to the following conclusions as to an autocratic form of government. "The autocrat is very rarely a man of business. . . His evolution has been martial and not industrial. . . His instructors are necessarily courtiers, their object is to please their master." "Even assuming the autocrat to be well and carefully trained for his duties, endowed with intellectual gifts of rarest order, animated by the earnest desire to dedicate his life to the welfare of his country . . he would still be hopeless." "Autocracy is an anachronism. The better the autocrat, the more conscientious, sincere and strenuous he is, the more harmful must he be to his country."

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**Jackson, C. R., and Daugherty, Mrs. L. S.** *Agriculture Through the Laboratory and School Garden.* Pp. 462. Price, \$1.50. New York: Orange Judd Company, 1908.

The plea for agricultural education in secondary schools, though manifestly such a fair and admirable one, has been long measured. With but few teachers, and no texts, the teaching of the subject was confronted by many obstacles which are only now beginning to be overcome. A work as painstakingly arranged and as carefully edited as this one is good evidence of the